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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /065 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7927
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
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UNCLAS BOGOTA 3123

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP CO
SUBJ: AIRPORT STATEMENT BY COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO
UPON HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES, APRIL 7.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO MADE A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THE
PRESS AND ANSWERED TWO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS PRIOR
TO DEPARTING FOR WASHINGTON. TEXT OF STATEMENT AND
ANSWERS FOLLOWS:

2. " AS I SEE IT, AT THIS MOMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, WE ARE
APPROACHING AN ERA OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS. THE PROXIMITY
OF THE MEETING OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL BE
ATTENDED BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND WHICH WILL
TREAT ALMOST ALL THE IMPORTANT THEMES OF INTEREST, NOT
ONLY CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN
STATES AND THE US, BUT ALSO THE ENTIRETY OF PROBLEMS
BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US, CREATES AN EXCEPTIONALLY
FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE US AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER
OF COLOMBIA. IN A MEETING (WITH) SECRETARY KISSINGER, WE
WILL UNDERTAKE A TOTAL REEXAMINATION OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS
AND DISCUSS SOME COLOMBIAN -US BILATERAL PROBLEMS, AND I HAVE
GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE MEETING WILL BE
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FRUITFUL."

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION REGARDING COLOMBIA'S
CRITERIA FOR OAS REFORM, LIEVANO SAID , "WE HAVE SUPPORTED
ADOPTION OF MANY OF THE REFORMS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED
WITHIN A SPECIAL COMMISSION WHICH WAS SPECIFICALLY CREATED
TO STUDY POSSIBLE REFORMS OF THE CHARTER; WE WILL DISCUSS
SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THESE REFORMS IN WASHINGTON, BUT, IN
REALITY, THE NATURAL EPICENTER FOR THIS TYPE OF DISCUSSION
IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OF COURSE, WE ARE SUPPORTING THE
ADOPTION OF CERTAIN REFORMS TO BE CHARTER IN THE BELIEF
THAT THESE REFORMS ARE DSEIGNED TO FUNDAMENTALLY STRENGTHEN
THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND, SPECIFICALLY, THE OAS. THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE OAS AND ITS INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS THE
RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE TREATY, IS A BASIC POSTULATE OF
COLOMBIA'S FOREIGN POLICY."

4. ASED IF HE AND THE SECRETARY MIGHT AGREE UPON A DATE
FOR PRESDIENT LOPEZ'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND UPON THE TOPICS
FOR DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDNET FORD, LIEVANO SAID, "...THE
VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL; POSSIBLY THIS WILL NOT
BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION (WITH THE SECRETARY). THE
MATTER WILL BE STUDIED AT A LATER DATE. BUT, YES, WE WILL
CERTAINLY DISCUSS SOME OF THE DETAILS AND SOME OF THE
TOPICS WHICH COULD BE SUBJECTS FOR THAT MEETING.
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